



# Safety and Environmental Newsletter

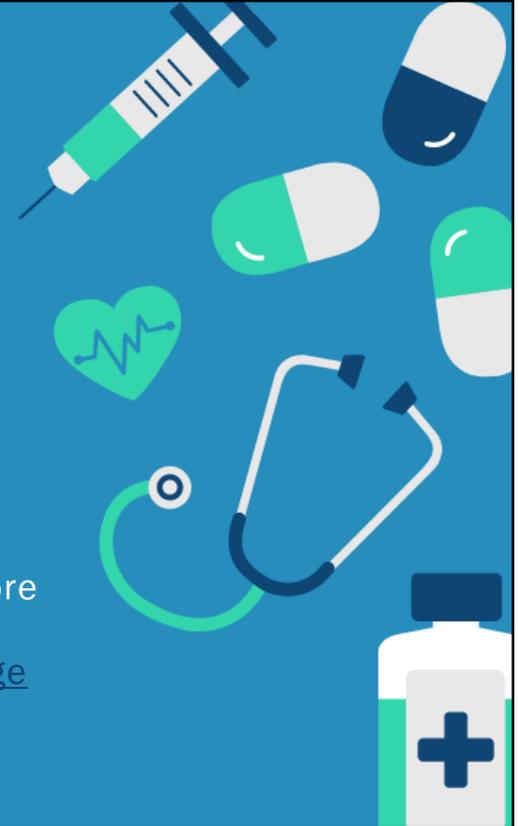
October 2020 — 102<sup>nd</sup> Edition

## UNITED, WE CAN BEAT THE FLU!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that on average, about 8% of the United States population gets sick from the flu each season. Everyone has a part to play in preventing the spread of the flu.

Do your part and get the flu vaccine.

Visit the NASA Safety Center's [flu prevention page](#) for more information and resources. Interested in playing an interactive flu prevention game? Visit the [Influ-Ender page](#) as well.



Safety culture is the value placed on safety as demonstrated by people's behavior. It is the way safety is perceived, valued, and prioritized in an organization. It reflects the commitment to safety at all levels in the organization. Safety culture is expressed and observed via individual and group attitudes and behavior and also organizational processes. The components that make up NASA's safety culture are:

**Reporting:** We report our concerns

**Just:** We treat each other fairly

**Flexible:** We change to meet new demands

**Learning:** We learn from successes and mistakes

**Engaged:** Everyone does their part

Please take the [Safety Culture Survey](#) [here](#) by October 30.



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## October is National Energy Awareness Month

October, National Energy Awareness month, reminds us of the necessity to commit to personal energy efficiency, a key component of the center's energy reduction goals. This month the energy team launched the first-ever Virtual Energy Awareness event. A Goddard-wide email blast was sent the first week of October which contained online quizzes and fact sheets to refresh your energy knowledge. Additional follow-on activities are emailed weekly in Dateline through October. Keep your eye out for more material to review.



### Winter Energy Efficiency

The current fall weather is a much-needed respite from the hot days of summer; however, winter is coming. It will soon be time for hot chocolate and frosty weather. Although the cold weather presents a myriad of potential risks to your home's energy efficiency, as an informed energy consumer you can minimize the amount of energy wasted, reducing your utility bills. Follow these quick winter energy saving tips to battle the blistering winds of winter:

- Set your thermostat to 68F or lower and before going to sleep, set it a few degrees lower.
- Check windows and doors for any air leaks. On a cold day sweep your hand around doors, windows, and any other potential leak spots and feel for a draft. Leaks can usually be fixed with a sealant.
- Open your blinds on south-facing windows during the day allowing sunlight to heat your home and close them at night to keep heat inside.



### Space Heating

An accompanying delight of the winter season is a toasty lit fireplace, but how does a fireplace affect your energy efficiency? If you plan to frequently use a fireplace this season consider one of the energy efficient options you can invest in to maintain the ambiance and heat a fireplace creates. For more information about home heating systems check out this [guide](#) published by DOE.

#### Traditional Fire Place

Around 85% of the heat generated in a traditional fireplace gets sucked up the chimney into the cold air making it the most inefficient option. The chimney can also suck up warm air in your home if the flue is open. To minimize heat losses, close the flue when not in use and consider adding glass doors which act as an additional barrier to keep the hot air inside.



#### Gas Fireplace

Gas fireplaces are the next most efficient but it depends on the type. Consider getting a gas insert instead of gas logs. A gas insert is a metal box that is fitted to your current fireplace and is designed to block warm air from escaping up the chimney losing only 30% of the heat generated compared to the 70% that is lost from gas logs.



#### Electric Fire Place

The final and most efficient type of fireplace is an electric fireplace. An electric fireplace does not require any exhaust and is 99% efficient. Additionally, an electric fireplace creates no pollutants and therefore poses no threat to air quality. An electric fireplace can be bought as an insert similar to the gas insert.

